

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers.

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Burbank Chamber of Commerce supports free market competition for all types of businesses. We believe fair and unhindered competition will provide many benefits to California residents and businesses alike. We also realize the value a quality telecommunications infrastructure provides to economic development opportunities.

We support the proposals before the FCC to eliminate unbundled switching and the UNE-P provisions. We think this provisioning is not encouraging competition as much as it is hurting telecommunications consumers and hampering the future of this industry.

Look for example at broadband. High-speed, broadband telecommunications services have become an essential component of economic development and quality of life measures throughout America. Never before has the demand for these services been greater. Freeing broadband investment from costly unbundling requirements would facilitate the deployment of valuable broadband technologies. Plus it would free the way for investment of new broadband technologies – providing California's businesses with products and services to make them more competitive and efficient. Consumers would benefit as well through increased access, advanced technologies, and better costs.

Eliminating harmful UNE-P provisions and balancing the regulatory environment for the telecom industry also would create new jobs and incentives for telecom companies to increase capital spending and investment. In fact, a recent study released by the Progress and Freedom Foundation found that eliminating the current unbundling regime would result in the creation of 1.115 million new jobs in the communications sector and an increase in capital spending of \$169.5 billion over the next five years.

It seems like an easy solution for a long-term benefit in telecommunications. We appreciate your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Susan Bowers, Executive Director  
Burbank Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Commissioner Abernathy  
Commission Adelstein  
Commissioner Martin  
Commissioner Copps

